

**Minutes**  
**North Lebanon Township Municipal Authority**  
**March 11, 2010**

The meeting of the North Lebanon Township Municipal Authority was held on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the North Lebanon Township Municipal Building, 725 Kimmerlings Road, Lebanon, PA with the following Board members present:

Wynanne Demler	Chairperson
Richard Miller	Vice Chairperson
Brian Hartman	Secretary
Susan Switzer Pierce	Assistant Secretary
Tod Dissinger	Treasurer
Thomas Harlan	Solicitor
Scott Rights	Steckbeck Engineering
Sheila Wartluft	Assistant Manager

Also in attendance were Kenneth Artz, Supervisor; Richard Miller, Supervisor; Cheri Grumbine, Township Manager; Mike Kneasel, Wastewater Foreman; Dave Gates, DEP; and various residents.

**Rockwood Presentation**

Dave Gates from the Department of Environmental Protection gave a presentation on the sewage needs of the Rockwood area of the Township. He explained that Swatara Township had prepared an Act 537 Plan for the Rockwood and Mountville area in approximately 2000 and DEP had approved that plan in 2003. He said North Lebanon Township has approximately 8 or 9 EDUs in that area. He explained that Swatara had submitted several plans but had not proceeded with any of their plans. He stated he came to the meeting to explain what DEP expects. He stated they expect cooperation between the two municipalities and that the plan move forward. Discussion followed regarding what DEP was requesting.

Scott Rights explained that North Lebanon Township had entered into an inter-municipal agreement years ago which stated that Swatara Township would take the lead and North Lebanon Township residents in that area would become their customers. However, Swatara never received the funding they requested and the project didn't proceed. Question was asked what timeframe they were requesting to which Mr. Gates stated getting a plan in place within a year as there are a significant number of septic systems in Rockwood which are failing. He further explained there was opportunity at this time for grant money. Questions were asked about what types of systems might be viable for that area to which Scott replied they would need feasibility studies. Mr. Gates explained they would need to follow the Act 537 Plan. Questions were asked regarding feasibility studies and the cost to residents and taxpayers. Mr. Gates explained that in some of the projects he has seen where small

needs areas are served, such as the Rockwood project, the burden would not fall totally on all of the rate payers of North Lebanon Township. Comment was made that this is a small number of residents that would be affected in contrast to the costs. Assistant Manager Sheila Wartluft asked what the timeline was for applying for some of the grants which are available now as the H<sub>2</sub>O funding seems to be geared toward this type of multi-municipal unaffordable project. The H<sub>2</sub>O funding grant application deadline is July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Gates replied that Swatara is still in control, and he would suggest cooperation between the two municipalities.

### Sewer Rate Presentation

Scott Rights gave a presentation regarding the sewer rate increase. He described how the sewer was originally constructed. He pointed out on the map where the original Township lines were constructed and then where the Authority lines were placed. He explained the long term plan to reline all the old clay pipes which were for the most part Township lines. He further explained how the Township lines were turned over to the Authority. He demonstrated with charts the difference between the rates the former Township customers and the current Authority customers were paying. He explained what the difference in rates in 2009 was for a typical user of 15,000 gallons of water per quarter between a Township customer and an Authority customer. He reiterated that the lines in the older parts of the Township which are in need of repair are the areas of the Township where some of those residents were not paying toward capital costs which funds these improvements. He further explained why the rates were unified so that everyone is now paying the same flat user rate. He then explained how the bill would fluctuate due to differences in water rate consumption with that portion of the bill being a pass through charge from the City of Lebanon Authority. Question was asked why the rates had not been increased previously if it had been discussed for 15 years and discussion followed. Questions were also asked by residents about the rates and consumption to which the answer was our Authority charges a flat rate and the City of Lebanon Authority charges vary due to consumption. There were also questions about the sewer billing cycle and when the new fees went into effect.

Question was asked by a resident about his charge for one and a half EDUs for his business and if it could be changed because his consumption is so low. The response was that the City EDU chart was used to make that determination. Normally EDUs were not changed once they were assigned and he would need to check with the City of Lebanon Authority.

Chairperson Demler asked for a motion to approve the February minutes.

**MOTION: Motion was made and seconded to approve the February minutes. Motion approved.**

Chairperson Demler asked for a motion to approve the invoices and requisitions for payment all subject to audit.

**MOTION: Motion was made and seconded to approve invoices and requisitions for payment all subject to audit. Motion approved.**

**SOLICITORS REPORT**

Thomas Harlan, who was substituting for Solicitor Wolf, stated they could go over all the points on Solicitor Wolf's report.

There was nothing new to report.

Thomas Harlan stated he had an agreement given to him regarding Landmark Homes and the Church of the Open Door. Scott asked if the agreement had addressed putting base liners in a few of the manholes and replace the manhole lids. He said they will be dedicating some of their sewers to us. Attorney Harlan read the issues in the agreement which pertained to Scott's questions and that Landmark would make the repairs and do everything required under this agreement and then dedicate the line to the Authority.

**MOTION: Motion was made and seconded to approve the agreement between Landmark and the Church of the Open Door regarding the sewer easement going through the church pursuant to the stipulations that Landmark will need to do at their expense what the Authority requires. With no discussion, motion carried.**

**MOTION: Motion was made and seconded to accept Solicitor Wolf's report. With no discussion, motion carried.**

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Scott Rights stated they had reviewed the Herb Plan to which Sheila replied they had not paid any fees, so no approvals will be made.

Scott stated he and Mike had inspected the manholes in the area previously discussed. He mentioned they had inspected the as builts at Briar Lake.

**ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT**

Sheila stated a request by Trim's for another extension of time for water connection had been received. Discussion followed that extensions had already been given and in an attempt to maintain policy consistency that no further extensions should be allowed.

**MOTION: Motion was made and seconded to deny the request by Trim's for an extension to connect to water. With no further discussion, motion carried.**

Sheila stated they had received the check for \$22,500 from the County Growing Greener grant. She stated they had a balance of \$2,500 which they will receive when the project is completed.

**SEWER DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Mike Kneasel, foreman, stated he met with the farmers on the west side of the Township where they will need to clean sewer lines. He stated one section will not be done until July and the other two before the corn is planted May 1st.

He said they had started working on Eighth Avenue. They painted the boxes and were going ahead with the One Calls so they can get started.

**MOTION: Motion was made and seconded to accept Mike’s report for March. Motion carried.**

Scott Rights asked the Board if they understood what Dave Gates was saying about Rockwood. The Board agreed they understood what he was saying. Scott stated they would need to follow the Act 537 plan. He explained they did the inter-municipal agreement with Swatara but did not follow the plan. Scott further explained that if they want to go for funding they will need to own the lines. He said the only option is to go for funding in order to afford the project. Discussion followed regarding when and how to go about applying for grants and how they go about contacting Swatara. Scott stated they would need to do a feasibility study first with discussion following regarding who would pay for the study.

**MOTION: Motion was made and seconded that the Authority gives Steckbeck Engineering the authority to contact Swatara Township to enter into a feasibility study for the Rockwood sewer project and that the costs be split among each Township by ratio of its users. With no further discussion, motion carried.**

Question was asked by Supervisor Artz about the original plan for Rockwood for gravity. Scott replied that the study would also include grinder pumps with gravity being a better option.

With no more business for the good of the Authority the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Bertin, Recording Secretary